

April 2007

RE: EDEExpress for Windows 2007-2008, Release 2.0

Dear EDEExpress Users:

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the availability of EDEExpress for Windows 2007-2008, Release 2.0. Release 2.0 adds Pell and Direct Loan functionality for the 2007-2008 award cycle.

Note: The Pell module includes 2007-2008 origination and disbursement functionality for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant).

In addition to the Release 2.0 software, the *EDEExpress for Windows 2007-2008, Release 2.0 Desk Reference* is available on the Department's Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site, located at fsadownload.ed.gov. The desk reference provides guidance and step-by-step instructions regarding Pell and Direct Loan functionality in Release 2.0. A separate desk reference addendum is also available covering EDEExpress 2007-2008, Release 2.0 functionality related to the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (the HERA), Pub. L. 109-171, such as ACG and National SMART Grant processing.

This letter includes the following information:

- An overview of EDEExpress 2007-2008, Release 2.0
- An overview of the HERA and its impact on EDEExpress 2007-2008
- A list of 2007-2008 enhancements available in Release 2.0
- Results gathered from EDEExpress benchmark testing
- Reminders on backing up and optimizing your EDEExpress database

All schools participating in the Federal Pell Grant Program or the Federal Direct Loan Program must use the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System to process Pell, ACG, National SMART Grant, and Direct Loan data. EDEExpress 2007-2008 can be used by schools to exchange Pell, ACG, National SMART Grant, and Direct Loan data with the COD System for the 2007-2008 cycle.

Schools send and receive Pell, ACG, National SMART Grant, and Direct Loan data origination and disbursement data to and from the COD System using the Common Record's Extensible Markup Language (XML) format. EDEExpress converts your data to XML format automatically during the export process, and can import files returned from the COD System in XML format.

2007-2008 Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules

As noted in an [Electronic Announcement](#) posted on February 27, 2007, the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, (P.L. 110-5), establishes the maximum Federal Pell Grant award for the 2007-2008 Award Year at \$4,310 and, with the minimum award continuing to be \$400, sets the maximum Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that a student may have to be eligible to receive a Pell Grant at 4110.

We began processing 2007-2008 application and correction records using the updated Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules on March 15, 2007. On March 22, 2007, we reprocessed 2007-2008 ISIRs for all students who applied for aid prior to March 15 and who, under earlier formulas, were not designated as being “Pell Grant Eligible,” but who are now eligible for a 2007-2008 Pell Grant.

Because EDEExpress 2007-2008, Release 2.0, uses the earlier Pell tables, Federal Student Aid will be providing an updated version of EDEExpress 2007-2008, Release 3.0, on May 18, 2007. Release 3.0 will include the updated Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules.

The Packaging and Pell modules in EDEExpress 2007-2008, Release 2.0, continue to follow the 2006-2007 maximum Pell Grant award of \$4,050, as in Release 1.0.

Release 2.0 Packaging users should note the following guidance:

- The Package and Repackage processes will not be updated for 2007-2008 Pell Grant changes until Release 3.0. However, EDEExpress users can manually adjust Pell Grant awards on 2007-2008 Packaging records at any time by following Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules published in [Dear Colleague Letter P-07-01](#).
- If you create Packaging records by importing ISIR data, you should reimport ISIR data for student records impacted by the March 22 reprocessing. This will ensure the Pell Eligibility field on the Packaging record is set correctly, though they will still be calculated at the earlier maximum award of \$4,050. You must unpackage student records at a Packaging Status of **P** (Packaged), **M** (Manually Adjusted), or **H** (Hand Packaged) in order to import new ISIR transactions. You may wish to print the Packaging Record for impacted students before unpackaging so you have a record of the funds you originally awarded to them (in case you wish to recreate the awards).
- We will publish an updated version of the *2007-2008 Packaging Technical Reference* in May 2007 to revise the valid field content for the Low Tuition field in the External Add Import record layout and the Import Field Change Number table.

Release 2.0 Pell users should note the following guidance:

- As noted in an [Electronic Announcement](#) posted on March 6, 2007, the COD System will begin accepting 2007-2008 Pell Grant origination and anticipated disbursement data after its May 11-12, 2007 system upgrade, which will account for the new Pell maximum, is complete. Any 2007-2008 Pell Grant data submitted prior to the system upgrade will be rejected by the COD System.
- **You should delay creating or submitting Pell Grant origination records in EDEExpress 2007-2008 until you have upgraded to Release 3.0.** The Release 2.0 Pell module does not calculate Pell awards according to the updated Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules.
- We will publish an updated version of the *2007-2008 COD Technical Reference, Volume III (Pell Grant, ACG, National SMART Grant and Direct Loan Combination System Supplement)* in May 2007 to revise the valid field content for the Low Tuition field in the External Origination Add/Change Import record layout.

You can create and submit 2007-2008 ACG, National SMART Grant, and Direct Loan origination and anticipated disbursement data using Release 2.0. The COD System will begin accepting ACG, National SMART Grant, and Direct Loan data for the 2007-2008 Award Year after its April 13-14, 2007 system upgrade is complete.

How to Get EDEExpress and Documentation

You can download Release 2.0 and related user documentation from the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site, located at fsadownload.ed.gov.

Instructions for downloading EDEExpress are located in the "Downloading Documentation and Software from the FSAdownload Web Site" section of the *Installation Guide for EDEExpress for Windows 2007-2008*, available on the FSAdownload Web site.

If you have trouble accessing the FSAdownload Web site, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at **800/330-5947 (TDD/TTY 800/511-5806)** or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

Note: Some organizations restrict their users from downloading programs from Internet sites. If you have trouble downloading, contact your technical support staff to ensure that you have full download rights.

If You Have Technical Support Questions

If you have questions regarding EDEExpress, such as installation issues, software problem resolution, or software functionality, or you require other technical assistance, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support.

You can reach CPS/SAIG Technical Support Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. (CT), at **800/330-5947 (TDD/TTY 800/511-5806)**. You can also send e-mail inquiries, comments, or suggestions to CPSSAIG@ed.gov. A representative will respond within one business day.

You can also post questions regarding EDEExpress on FSATECH. FSATECH is an electronic mailing list for technical questions about Federal Student Aid systems, software, and mainframe products. For more information about FSATECH, including how to subscribe, go to fsa4schools.ed.gov, click “Listserves/Mailing Lists” on the left menu, and click the “FSATech” link.

If You Have Questions Regarding the COD System

If you have questions regarding the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center at **800/4PGRANT (800/474-7268)** for ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant or **800/848-0978** for Direct Loan. You can also e-mail CODSupport@acs-inc.com.

If You Have Questions Regarding the HERA

If you have policy-related questions regarding the HERA, contact Federal Student Aid’s Research and Customer Care Center (RCCC) at **800/433-7327** or by fax at **202/275-5532**. You can also e-mail the RCCC at fsa.customer.support@ed.gov. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

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EExpress for Windows 2007-2008, Release 2.0

EExpress for Windows 2007-2008, Release 2.0 adds two software modules:

- Pell (including ACG and National SMART Grant)
- Direct Loan

In addition, Global functionality applicable to all modules, such as Security setup, Document Tracking setup, and User Database setup and entry is added during any installation of EExpress.

EExpress 2007-2008, Release 1.0, posted in January 2007, contained the Application Processing and Packaging modules. If you have not yet installed Release 1.0, you can install these two modules using Release 2.0.

Release 2.0 is an upgrade to Release 1.0, and will not overwrite your Release 1.0 database unless you choose the Network Server or Stand Alone Full installation options.

For more information on the EExpress installation process, see the *Installation Guide for EExpress for Windows 2007-2008*, which is available for download from the FSAdownload Web site at fsadownload.ed.gov/softexpress0708.htm.

Release 2.0 Enhancements Related to the HERA

During the 2007-2008 cycle, Federal Student Aid continues to implement enhancements to the EExpress software related to provisions of the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (the HERA), Pub. L. 109-171. These enhancements build upon or modify changes implemented for the HERA in the 2006-2007 versions of EExpress.

Enhancement releases were developed and posted for the EExpress 2006-2007 and DL Tools software to modify existing Direct Loan functionality to enable processing of the Federal Direct PLUS Loan for graduate or professional students (as Grad PLUS loans). The EExpress releases also added functionality related to two new Title IV grant programs established by the HERA—the ACG and the National SMART Grant

Note: The HERA provides for eligible graduate or professional students to receive Direct PLUS Loans on or after July 1, 2006. The HERA provision does not create a new loan program; instead, the HERA enables a new type of borrower—an eligible graduate or professional student—to borrow under the existing Direct PLUS Loan Program. In EExpress 2007-2008, a Direct PLUS loan for a graduate or professional student is referred to as a “Grad PLUS” loan.

Also as a result of the HERA, some of the annual loan limits in the Direct Stafford Loan Program are increased. The EExpress 2007-2008 Packaging module and Direct Loan module follow these adjusted loan limits.

Note: The higher loan limits apply to loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2007. The COD System will use the date of the earliest anticipated disbursement (DRI = False) if there are no actual disbursements (DRI = True) when determining the appropriate loan limits to apply. The COD System will use the earliest actual disbursement, if both actual and anticipated disbursements exist for a loan, when determining the appropriate loan limits to apply.

Other additional enhancements related to the HERA are implemented in the Direct Loan module in Release 2.0. These enhancements include an updated default value for the Sub/Unsub Loan Fee Percentage in Direct Loan School setup (2.5 percent for 2007-2008 loans) and restoration of “Special School” status for schools with low cohort default rates, which enables single installment disbursements of loan awards.

For more information on HERA-related enhancements to Application Processing, Packaging, and Global functionality for 2007-2008, see the “Product Enhancements” section in the *EDEExpress for Windows 2007-2008, Release 1.0 Cover Letter*, which is available for download from the FSAdownload Web site at fsadownload.ed.gov/softexpress0708.htm.

Section 508 Compliance

To comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, EDEExpress 2007-2008 is compatible with screen reader technology used by the visually impaired. Screen reader software cannot interpret color shading in EDEExpress software entry fields or directly read the contents of software grid cells. To accommodate these restrictions, EDEExpress 2007-2008 includes the following features:

- All EDEExpress fields that are shaded yellow to indicate they are required also display a “-R” after the software label. The “-R” indicates the field is required.
- All EDEExpress fields that are shaded blue after a previously saved value has been modified also display a “-C” after the software label. The “-C” text indicates the field has been changed. If the change is made to a field that is shaded yellow, the “-C” text will replace the “-R” text after the label.
- All EDEExpress grids display “floating” text descriptions of the contents of grid cells when cells are selected. The text displays one cell above (or below, if the first cell is selected) the selected cell. The text lists Row number, Column title, and (if applicable) the current Value. Clicking once in a cell, or using the Tab key or arrow keys to move to a cell, displays the text. Clicking a second time, or using the Tab key or arrow keys to move from a cell, hides the text.
- Floating text is always enabled for the SYSADMIN user ID and always displays in the Startup Information dialog box. To disable the floating text, go to **Tools, Setup, Security Users** and create a new user ID and password. Exit EDEExpress, and then log back in with your new user ID and password. For all user IDs other than SYSADMIN, floating text is disabled by default. To enable floating text, select the **Enable 508 Grid Functionality?** checkbox in the Security Users dialog box.

Note: Users will always see the “-R” and “-C” labels added to software fields.

Product Enhancements

The following product enhancements have been incorporated into EDEExpress 2007-2008, Release 2.0.

Note: Some enhancements listed below were originally made available to users in Release 1.0, and are repeated here for the benefit of users installing EDEExpress 2007-2008 for the first time with Release 2.0. For more information on 2007-2008 enhancements to Application Processing, Packaging, and Global functionality, see the *EDExpress for Windows 2007-2008, Release 1.0 Cover Letter*, which is available for download from the FSAdownload Web site at fsadownload.ed.gov/softexpress0708.htm.

General Changes

- **Cycle References and Message Classes Updated for 2007-2008.** We updated software labels, online Help, reports, and other functionality throughout EDEExpress to reference the 2007-2008 cycle. Message classes with cycle indicators are also updated for 2007-2008 in File Management (**Tools, Setup, Global, File Management**) and in various Import and Export dialog boxes throughout EDEExpress.
- **EDExpress Icon and Splash Screen Color Updated to Match 2007-2008 FAFSA.** The EDEExpress software's Windows icon and splash screen (which displays when you first start the software in Windows) have been colored yellow to match the 2007-2008 FAFSA form.
- **HERA Overview Help Topics Updated for 2007-2008.** We updated Help topics available in Global, Application Processing, Packaging, Pell, Direct Loan, and Query online Help for 2007-2008 that provide detailed information and guidance on EDEExpress changes related to the HERA. The topics, which were originally added in EDEExpress 2006-2007, are titled "Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)," "National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant," "Graduate and Professional Student PLUS Loan (Grad PLUS)," and "Other HERA Changes Overview." The topics can be accessed by clicking **Help, Help Topics** from the EDEExpress menu bar, selecting the **Index** tab, and typing the name of the topic you want to view.

Global Prior Year Import

- **Global Setup Field Added to Prior Year Import.** Prior Year User-Defined Queries, Setup, and File Formats Import now imports values for the Global Security Users setup field "Enable 508 Grid Functionality?" from the prior year's EDEExpress database.

Global ED-Initiated Import

- **Updated ED-Initiated Import Message Class for ACG Data File.** The 2007-2008 version of the ACG Data File (message class **ED2008OP**) can be imported and printed using the EDEXpress Global ED-initiated Import function. The ACG Data File contains ACG student self-identification data entered on FAFSA on the Web or FAA Access to CPS Online, or by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC), and can be used as part of your school's ACG eligibility determination and verification procedures. The report is print-only, and the data is not stored in the EDEXpress database. You can define the ACG Data File message class in **Tools, Setup, Global, ED Initiated Imports**. A record layout for the ACG Data File is available in Section 3 of the *2007-2008 Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) Technical Reference*, available on the FSAdownload Web site, located at fsadownload.ed.gov.

Note: Due to a limitation in the number of comment codes that can be assigned to a given Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) transaction, ACG-related comment codes may not always display on the ISIR for ACG-eligible students. Be sure to check ACG Data Files for additional ACG eligibility information.

Application Processing—NSLDS View and Print

- **NSLDS Data for ACG, National SMART Grant, and Grad PLUS Added to View, Print Functionality.** EDEXpress now displays and prints NSLDS data for ACG, National SMART Grant, and Grad PLUS awards that are included in the NSLDS section of the 2007-2008 ISIR. You can view or print the NSLDS data on the ISIR and NSLDS reports (**File, Print, App Express**) or view the data from any EDEXpress entry tab by selecting **View, NSLDS**.

Pell, ACG, National SMART Grant and Direct Loan Data Processing

- **Updated Valid Date Ranges.** We updated valid date ranges for Pell, ACG, National SMART Grant, and Direct Loan processing for the 2007-2008 processing cycle to synchronize EDEXpress with the COD System's edits and federal policy. These date ranges include:

Field	Range
Pell Enrollment Date	01/01/2007 to 06/30/2008
Pell Payment Period Start Date	01/01/2007 to 06/30/2008
Pell Disbursement Date	07/01/2007 to 09/30/2013
Date of Birth (DL only)	01/01/1908 to 12/31/1999
DL Award Begin Date	07/02/2006 to 06/30/2008

Field	Range
DL Award End Date	07/01/2007 to 06/29/2009
DL Academic Year Start Date	07/02/2006 to 06/30/2008
DL Academic Year End Date	07/01/2007 to 06/29/2009
DL Disbursement Date (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and PLUS loan types)	06/22/2006 to 10/27/2009
DL Disbursement Date (Grad PLUS loan type)	07/01/2006 to 10/27/2009

Note: With the exception of disbursement date range, all Pell date ranges also apply to ACG and National SMART Grant records. The valid 2007-2008 disbursement date range for ACG and National SMART Grant records is 7/1/2007 to 9/30/2012.

Pell-Specific Enhancements

The following enhancements solely affect the Pell module:

- **ACG and National SMART Grant Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) Data Now Stored in EDExpress Database.** ACG and National SMART Grant ESOA data you import are now stored in the EDExpress database for subsequent viewing and printing. Select **File, Import, Pell, Electronic Statement of Account** to import an ACG (message class **AGAS08OP**) or National SMART Grant (message class **SGAS08OP**) ESOA.

To view or print ACG or National SMART Grant ESOA reports you have imported, go to **File, Print, Pell**, select **ESOA** as the Report, then select **ACG** or **National SMART** as the Grant Type (depending on the program you want to print ESOA data for). As with the Pell ESOA report, you can print ACG or National SMART Grant data from a single ESOA file (by Document ID) or all ESOA data for a particular Reporting Entity ID.

- **ACG and National SMART Grant-Specific Reports Added.** We have added several new reports for ACG and National SMART Grant data to the Pell module. The format and content of the following new reports are modeled on the existing Pell versions:
 - Edits by Student – Origination
 - Edits by Student – Disbursement
 - List-Processed Disbursements YTD
 - List-Disbursement Activity Summary
 - SSN/Name Differences

To view or print these reports, go to **File, Print, Pell**, select the report you want to run, and select the appropriate Grant Type for the data you want to view or print (**Pell, ACG, or National SMART**).

- **Student Summary Report Displays ACG and National SMART Grant Award Data.**
We updated the Student Summary report to include 2007-2008 ACG and National SMART Grant award information for the student as part of the existing Pell Grants section of the report. As with Pell records, only ACG and National SMART Grant records with actual disbursements (Disbursement Release Indicator = True, or selected) are displayed or printed on the Student Summary report.

Direct Loan-Specific Enhancements

The following enhancements solely affect the Direct Loan module:

- **Origination Fee Defaults to 2.5% for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans.** Provisions of the HERA reduced the origination fee charged to Direct Stafford Loan borrowers to 2.5 percent for 2007-2008 loans, provided the first actual disbursement (Disbursement Release Indicator = True, or selected) is made on or after July 1, 2007. As a result, the Sub/Unsub Loan Fee Percentage in Direct Loan School setup (**Tools, Setup, COD, School, Direct Loan**) will default to the reduced origination fee percentage of 2.5 percent for 2007-2008 subsidized and unsubsidized loan records. Refer to the Direct Loan Origination Fee section of the “Other HERA Changes Overview” topic in EDEExpress online Help for details about how to correct loan records with an incorrect loan origination fee.

Note: If you are originating loans in EDEExpress 2007-2008 with a first disbursement date *before* July 1, 2007, you must change the Sub/Unsub Loan Fee Percentage field to 3.0 in Direct Loan School setup before originating those loans. If you want to subsequently originate 2007-2008 loans with a first disbursement date *on or after* July 1, 2007, you must change the Sub/Unsub Loan Fee Percentage field back to 2.5 in Direct Loan School setup before originating those loans.

Note: If you import Prior Year User-Defined Queries, Setup and File Formats from EDEExpress for 2006-2007 into EDEExpress for 2007-2008 with the COD School (Direct Loan School) checkbox selected, be aware that the default value for the Sub/Unsub Loan Fee Percentage will be set to 3.000 unless you already changed the value to 2.500 in EDEExpress 2006-2007 Direct Loan Setup. Make sure that you return the Sub/Unsub Loan Fee Percentage value in COD School setup (Direct Loan) to the 2007-2008 default of 2.500 before you originate any subsidized or unsubsidized loans with a disbursement date on or after July 1, 2007.

- **MPN Expiration Date Field Added to Origination Tab.** The MPN Expiration Date is now returned in the Common Record Response file (**CRAA08OP**) or the MPN Response file (**CRPN08OP**) by the COD System. When the MPN Expiration Date exists in the response file you import, EDEExpress displays the date on the Direct Loan Origination record in the MPN Information section of the Loan Info tab.

The MPN Expiration Date field is also now available for selection under Direct Loan Query and Direct Loan File Formats. The date will print on the DL Origination Record, List-Sub/Unsub MPN, List-PLUS MPN, and List-Grad PLUS MPN reports, and can be viewed in Direct Loan Browse on the Sub/Unsub, PLUS, and Grad PLUS tabs.

- **Sub/Unsub Loans Originated At Higher Loan Limits Established by the HERA.** As a result of the HERA, some of the annual loan limits in the Direct Stafford Loan Program are increased. The higher loan limits resulting from the HERA are shown in **bold** below and can be applied to loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2007:
 - **\$3,500** for 1st year undergraduate base subsidized/unsubsidized loans; \$4,000 for additional unsubsidized loans
 - **\$4,500** for 2nd year undergraduate base subsidized/unsubsidized loans; \$4,000 for additional unsubsidized loans
 - \$5,500 for 3rd year and beyond undergraduate base subsidized/unsubsidized loans; \$5,000 for additional unsubsidized loans
 - \$8,500 for graduate/professional base subsidized/unsubsidized loans; **\$12,000** for additional unsubsidized loans
 - \$2,625 for preparatory coursework base subsidized/unsubsidized loans (for enrollment in an undergraduate program); \$4,000 for additional unsubsidized loans
 - \$5,500 for preparatory coursework base subsidized/unsubsidized loans (for enrollment in a graduate or professional program); **\$7,000** for additional unsubsidized loans
 - \$5,500 for teacher certification base subsidized/unsubsidized loans; **\$7,000** additional unsubsidized loans
 - \$27,167 additional unsubsidized loans for Health professions undergraduate level students; **\$47,167** additional unsubsidized loans at the graduate level.

Note: A checkbox labeled “Additional Unsub Preprofessional or Teacher Certification?” has been added to the Borrower Information on the Origination tab (Direct Loan) for students who are eligible for additional unsubsidized loans for enrollment in graduate, professional, or teaching certification programs. Selecting this checkbox enables you to award additional unsubsidized loans of up to \$7,000 for eligible students. You can select this checkbox only if the College Grade Level equals 5. If you change the College Grade Level to a value other than 5, the checkbox is automatically cleared and disabled. This checkbox is also disabled and cannot be selected if the Additional Unsub Eligibility for Health Profession Programs checkbox is selected, as a student cannot be eligible to receive both loans.

The field “Additional Unsub Preprofessional or Teacher Certification?” is available for selection under Direct Loan Query and Direct Loan File Formats. It can also be added or modified using Direct Loan External Import Add or External Change, respectively. The new flag will print on the DL Origination Record and List–Loan Eligibility reports, and can be viewed in Direct Loan Browse on the Sub/Unsub tab.

Note: The aggregate loan limits for subsidized and unsubsidized loans have not been increased. Also, the preparatory undergraduate coursework loan limits remain at \$2,625 for base subsidized/unsubsidized loans and \$4,000 in additional unsubsidized loans.

You should also note the following details regarding Release 2.0 and the higher annual loan limits established by the HERA:

- The Direct Loan origination edits accommodate the new loan limits established by the HERA.
- You can manually create origination records that follow the increased loan limits in Release 2.0, as well as add or modify loan disbursements following the new loan limits using a Direct Loan External Import Add or Change file.
- The EDEExpress Package/Repackage process awards subsidized loans (Aid Type **S**) and unsubsidized loans (Aid Type **U** or **D** for non-need based or need-based unsubsidized loans, respectively) according to the increased annual loan limits in EDEExpress 2007-2008. You can also use the Direct Loan Packaging Data import (**File, Import, Direct Loan**) to import EDEExpress Packaging loan data following the increased loan limits to create loan origination records in the Direct Loan module.

Note: The higher loan limits apply to loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2007. The COD System will use the date of the earliest anticipated disbursement (DRI = False) if there are no actual disbursements (DRI = True) when determining the appropriate loan limits to apply. The COD System will use the earliest actual disbursement, if both actual and anticipated disbursements exist for a loan, when determining the appropriate loan limits to apply.

For additional details on loan limit increases related to the HERA, see [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-06-02](#), posted on ifap.ed.gov on March 10, 2006.

- **Single Disbursement of Loans.** The exemption of institutions with low cohort default rates from certain multiple disbursement requirements has been reinstated in the law. An institution with a cohort default rate of less than 10 percent for each of the three most recent fiscal years for which data are available, including an eligible foreign institution, may once again disburse, in a single installment, loans that are made for one semester, one trimester, one quarter, or a four-month period.

If your school meets these cohort default rate requirements, you can designate in the COD School setup (Direct Loan) that you are a “Special School” and can therefore disburse loans in a single disbursement. Select **Tools, Setup** from the menu bar, click the **COD** tab, and select the **School** button. If the Direct Loan tab is not selected, click the **Direct Loan** tab at the top of the screen. Select the **Are You a Special School?** checkbox and click **OK**.

COD Print Enhancement

- **ACG and National SMART Grant-Specific Reports Added.** The following EDEExpress COD reports are updated to uniquely distinguish between ACG and National SMART Grant data (in addition to the Pell and Direct Loan data currently displayed on the report):
 - List – Student Records in Document
 - List – Document Activity

2007-2008 COD Technical Reference

The *2007-2008 COD Technical Reference* provides technical specifications and record layouts for transmitting Pell Grant and Direct Loan data to the COD System. You can download this technical reference from the FSAdownload Web site, located at fsadownload.ed.gov.

Microsoft Windows Vista

At this time, Federal Student Aid has not certified the Microsoft Corporation's recently released Windows Vista as a supported operating system for EDEExpress or its other PC software products. This guidance also applies to the Local Area Network (LAN) or "server" version of Windows Vista, due for release later in 2007. We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

EDExpress Benchmarking

We performed benchmarking tests on the EDExpress for Windows 2007-2008, Release 2.0 software to determine how it operates in certain operating environments. These tests were all completed on a Pentium 1.2 GB MHz with 512 MB RAM.

Imports

The benchmarking results for EDExpress import files are as follows:

- These imports were imported into an empty EDExpress database.
- The Benchmarking Volume is the type and number of records that were imported in the test.
- The Time Elapsed column indicates the measurement of time starting when the user clicks OK in the Import dialog box to begin the import process until the import statistics are displayed.

Direct Loan

Import	Operating System	Benchmarking Volume	Time Elapsed
External Add	Windows 2000	1000 records	2 min, 58 seconds
External Add	Windows XP	1000 records	2 min, 48 seconds
ISIR Import	Windows 2000	1000 records	1 min, 9 seconds
ISIR Import	Windows XP	1000 records	1 min, 17 seconds

Pell/ACG/National SMART Grant

Import	Operating System	Benchmarking Volume	Time Elapsed
YTD Data	Windows 2000	2032 records	9 seconds
YTD Data	Windows XP	2032 records	8 seconds
Origination Data – ISIRs	Windows 2000	1000 records	10 seconds
Origination Data – ISIRs	Windows XP	1000 records	9 seconds

Reports

The benchmarking results for EDEExpress reports and lists are as follows:

- The Benchmarking Volume is the number of records or approximate number of pages that were printed in the test.
- The Time Elapsed column indicates the length of time starting when the user clicks OK in the EDEExpress Print dialog box and ending when the operating system's (Windows 2000/XP) Print dialog box displays.

Direct Loan

Report	Operating System	Benchmarking Volume	Time Elapsed
List–Anticipated Disbursements	Windows 2000	5 records, 10 pages	1 second
List–Anticipated Disbursements	Windows XP	5 records, 10 pages	1 second
Sub/Unsub/PLUS/ Grad PLUS MPNs	Windows 2000	2 notes, 4 pages	1 second
Sub/Unsub/PLUS/Grad PLUS MPNs	Windows XP	2 notes, 4 pages	1 second

Pell/ACG/National SMART Grant

Report	Operating System	Benchmarking Volume	Time Elapsed
Origination Record	Windows 2000	3 records, 6 pages	1 second
Origination Record	Windows XP	3 records, 6 pages	1 second
Disbursement List	Windows 2000	30 records, 4 pages	1 second
Disbursement List	Windows XP	30 records, 4 pages	1 second

Reminders

Back Up Your Database Regularly

You should back up your EDEExpress database file (expres78.mdb) regularly so you do not lose your data. We recommend that you back up your files after each major update to your database (for example, after updating a large group of student records), or at least once a week. You should also back up your data before and after you run the software utilities as a precautionary measure.

EDEExpress does not include a backup utility. You must use your own backup system. Be sure to test your backup system regularly to verify that you can reliably restore your database.

Optimize Your Database with Software Utilities

EDEExpress contains utilities that enable you to optimize your database to prevent problems. We recommend that you run the Compact and Repair Database and Verify Database utilities at least once a week. Be sure to create a backup of your database before and after running these utilities.

Run the software utilities in the following order:

- Compact and Repair Database
- Verify Database
- Compact and Repair Database

Run the Compact and Repair Database Utility

The Compact and Repair Database utility resolves inconsistencies in record storage and improves the performance of the EDEExpress database. Running this utility at least once per week helps to prevent database problems.

Events such as a power outage or a Local Area Network (LAN) failure can corrupt your database if it occurs while users are logged into EDEExpress. If your system functions unpredictably (for example, you start getting database error messages), run the Compact and Repair Database utility.

Running the Compact and Repair Database utility on a regular basis can make your database significantly smaller and improve EDEExpress' performance. The utility reduces the size of your database by organizing and storing records more efficiently and by removing any records that have been flagged for deletion.

Warning: Before using the Compact and Repair Database utility, be sure you have space on your hard drive or LAN folder that is at least equal to three times the current size of your EDEExpress database. You should also ensure all other users are logged out of EDEExpress before running the Compact and Repair Database utility.

Run the Verify Database Utility

Each student record in EDEExpress has multiple parts that are stored in different database tables. The Verify Database utility checks the integrity of relationships between these tables. If EDEExpress shuts down due to a program error or halts abnormally while you are processing data, links between various parts of a record may become damaged. Verify Database repairs these damaged links within the database.

You should always run the Compact and Repair Database utility before and after running the Verify Database utility. Running this utility at least once per week is recommended as part of your preventative maintenance routine.

Warning: Before using the Verify Database utility, ensure you have hard drive or LAN folder space available that is equal to at least three times the current size of your EDEExpress database. You should also ensure all other users are logged out of EDEExpress before running the Verify Database utility.